



# Regional Off-Street System Plan - ROSS

Maricopa Association of Governments

NEWSLETTER 1:3

March 30, 2000

## WHAT IS IT?

The Regional Off-Street System (ROSS) Plan was initiated by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). ROSS will identify opportunities for off-street non-motorized travel



throughout the Valley. The paved pathways and unpaved trails will form part of the overall transportation system for

travel by bicyclists and pedestrians. The goal of the ROSS plan is to help make bicycling and walking viable options for daily travel trips to work, school and leisure activities.



This newsletter is the first in a series of three that will be circulated during the project.

## WHO IS MAG?

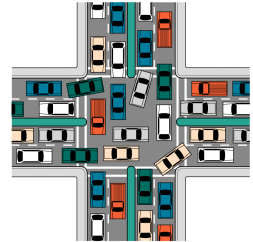
The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is a regional agency of the Valley's communities working together to ensure a better quality of life. MAG is a Council of Governments that serves the metropolitan Phoenix area and the many diverse cities, towns and Indian communities within Maricopa County.

Our agency is charged with developing regional policies and plans in areas such as transportation, air quality, water quality, solid waste and human services. We are also the distributing agency for millions of dollars in federal funds for many important transportation, environmental and human services programs.

## WHY IS ROSS NEEDED?

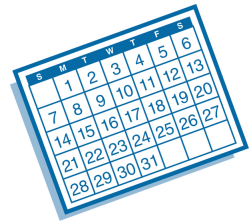
ROSS is necessary to help encourage non-motorized transportation. Replacing private automobile trips with bicycling and walking will contribute to improved air quality and reduced congestion. In addition, there are numerous

opportunities for bicycling and walking using existing off-street rights-of-way and easements, such as canals, linear parkways, flood control channels and utility line easements, throughout the region. These rights-of-way intersect numerous arterial streets where the local daily destinations people travel to are typically located.



## PROJECT SCHEDULE

The project is currently underway with a draft plan expected in mid-July. The consultant is meeting with the two MAG Committees overseeing the project each month: the Regional Bicycle Task Force and Pedestrian Working Group. Also, a Regional Trails Forum has been formed to help other organizations and individuals participate. These meetings are all open to the public and you are encouraged to attend. The project and meeting schedule are on the back of this newsletter.



## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

There are a variety of ways to participate. You can attend any of the scheduled meetings, contact us by e-mail at [ross@rbf.com](mailto:ross@rbf.com), or visit the MAG website at [www.mag.maricopa.gov](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov). Just click on "Technical Committees" and go to the Regional Bicycle Task Force page. You can also call Dawn M. Coomer at the MAG office, (602) 254-6300 with any additional suggestions or questions.



## REGIONAL OFF-STREET SYSTEM PLAN PROJECT SCHEDULE

|   | Jan                 | Feb                  | March                 | April                 | May                 | June                 | July                              |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>MEETINGS</b>   |                     |                      |                       |                       |                     |                      |                                   |
| Regional Trails Forum                                   | Jan 18<br>4:00-6:00 |                      | March 21<br>4:00-6:00 |                       | May 16<br>4:00-6:00 |                      | July 18<br>4:00-6:30<br>Tentative |
| Oversight Committee                                     |                     | Feb. 22<br>1:30-3:30 | March 21<br>1:30-3:30 | April 18<br>1:30-3:30 | May 16<br>1:30-3:30 | June 20<br>1:30-3:30 | July 18<br>1:30-3:30              |
| <b>PROJECT TASKS</b>                                    |                     |                      |                       |                       |                     |                      |                                   |
| Public and Agency Involvement Plan                      |                     | Feb 15               |                       |                       |                     |                      |                                   |
| Identify Issues and Opportunities;<br>Prioritize Issues |                     | Feb 18               |                       |                       |                     |                      |                                   |
| Develop Plan Vision Statement, Goals<br>and Objectives  |                     | Feb 25               |                       |                       |                     |                      |                                   |
| <i>Newsletter</i>                                       |                     |                      | March 31              |                       |                     |                      |                                   |
| Corridor Identification                                 |                     |                      | March 17              |                       |                     |                      |                                   |
| Corridor Evaluation                                     |                     |                      | March 31              |                       |                     |                      |                                   |
| <i>Newsletter</i>                                       |                     |                      |                       |                       | May 31              |                      |                                   |
| Performance Standards                                   |                     |                      |                       | April 28              |                     |                      |                                   |
| Project Prioritization                                  |                     |                      |                       |                       | May 19              |                      |                                   |
| Implementation and Funding                              |                     |                      |                       |                       |                     | June 9               |                                   |
| <i>Newsletter</i>                                       |                     |                      |                       |                       |                     |                      | July 31                           |
| Draft MAG ROSS Plan                                     |                     |                      |                       |                       |                     |                      | July 9                            |

*Note: Dates for Project Tasks listed above may change due to unforeseen issues or opportunities.*